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D. Townsend
PATENT 04/25/02

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 041094-5017

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Nobuo IWASAKI et al.)
Application No.: 10/017,505) Group Art Unit: 3652
Filed: December 18, 2001) Examiner: Unexamined

For: DEVICE FOR CARRYING ARTICLE INTO AND FROM CONTAINER,
METHOD FOR INTRODUCING AND DISCHARGING ARTICLE INTO
AND FROM CONTAINER, AND PALLET FOR CARRYING ARTICLE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application and before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of each listed document is attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and are in a language other than English.

1. Japanese Patent Publication No. Hei 7-165337. The relevance of this document is shown in the English-language abstract.
2. Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. Sho. 56-23126. The relevance of this document is shown in the English-language abstract.
3. Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. Sho. 62-88630. The relevance of this document is shown in the English-language abstract.
4. Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. Sho. 62-88631. The relevance of this document is shown in the English-language abstract.
5. Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. Hei. 6-64717. The relevance of this document is shown in the English-language abstract.
6. Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. Hei. 6-9009. The relevance of this document is shown in the English-language abstract.
7. Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. Sho. 52-68581. The relevance of this document is shown in the English-language abstract.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute “prior art.” If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute “prior art” under

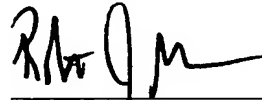
United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. §1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 28, 2002
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